THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, no import of wheat was done on Government account. However, during the year 2006-07, orders were placed for import of 55 lakh tons of wheat. Out of this 55 lakh tons, a quantity of 53.79 lakh tons arrived in 2006-07 and 0.75 lakh tons in 2007-08 (total 54.54 lakh tons).

(b) The average price paid per quintal was Rs. 924 for the imports ordered during the year 2006-07.

(c) The details are as under:

Rabi Marketing Season (Procurement Year)	Import Price (Rs. per quintal)	Procurement Price (MSP) (Rs.)	Difference (Rs.)
2003-04	No imports	630*	-
2004-05	No imports	630	-
2005-06	No imports	640	-
2006-07	924	700**	224

* Rs.620 + Rs.10 as drought relief.

** Rs.650 + Rs.50 as bonus.

Reduction in allocation of foodgrains to States

3435. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are cuts in allocation in foodgrain in both rice and wheat for APL cardholders in West Bengal and Kerala in last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any other States where such cuts were made;

(d) if so, the details of the cuts;

(e) whether Government has received any request from State Governments to restore the allocations; and

(f) if so, what steps Government is taking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Whereas allocations of foodgrains under TPDS for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are being made @ 35 kg. per family per month, on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimate of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimate of Registrar General of India, those for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of their stocks in the Central Pool.

In view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, their allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the APL category was rationalized, for all the States/UTs, including West Bengal & Kerala, on the basis of offtake during previous 3 years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 from June, 2006 and April, 2007, respectively.

The details of APL allocations made during last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Keeping in view the requests received from State Governments and also to keep prices of foodgrains in the open market under check, the Government made adhoc/additional allocation of foodgrains of about one lakh tons per month from September, 2006 to July, 2007 and from September, 2007 to March, 08. Also, about 1.24 lakh tons of wheat and 0.60 lakh tons of rice were allocated for festivals.

Statement

Annual allocation of foodgrains under the APL category

(Thousand tons)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,266.740	2,194.220	2178.447
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	69.750	62.148	62.055
3.	Assam	955.140	943.830	574.609
4.	Bihar	2,291.520	1,307.240	28.237
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,045.800	821.390	50.782
6.	Delhi	996.516	664.676	576.391
7.	Goa	118.296	91.190	20.614
8.	Gujarat	2,787.564	1,444.404	273.381
9.	Haryana	1,014.204	499.540	120.521
10.	HP	348.900	319.400	261.624
11.	J & K	447.720	482.720	514.507
12.	Jharkhand	216.300	189.980	52.248
13.	Karnataka	2,035.014	1,594.222	1372.754
14.	Kerala	1,808.940	1,604.460	531.999
15.	M.P.	2,535.372	1,041.946	125.550
16.	Maharashtra	4,700.880	2,270.900	176.377
17.	Manipur	47.460	41.328	37.930
18.	Meghalaya	45.024	44.944	63.555
19.	Mizoram	72.020	43.662	56.482
20.	Nagaland	102.400	77.004	78.807
21.	Orissa	1,155.564	838.990	203.377
22.	Punjab	1,473.240	672.410	83.493
23.	Rajasthan	2,763.756	1,337.890	290.950
24.	Sikkim	25.812	26.447	27.553
25.	Tamil Nadu	3,787.980	3,763.560	2805.512
26.	Tripura	179.232	176.858	139.309
27.	Uttar Pradesh	6,494.460	3,842.700	65.506.
28.	Uttaranchal	333.552	287.770	132.373

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
29.	West Bengal	4,089.180	3,473.760	847.940
30.	A&N Islands	36.360	22.070	22.404
31.	Chandigarh	75.516	31.806	0.300
32.	D&N Haveli	7.140	6.650	4.808
33.	Damen & Diu	9.420	8.900	1.020
34.	Lakshadweep	3.360	3.698	3.660
35	Pondicherry	13.200	50.050	30.990
	TOTAL:	44,353.332	30,282.763	11816.065

Regulation of procurement of foodgrains

3436. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would regulate procurement of wheat and other cereals being done by private traders in view of inflation rising to 5 per cent;

(b) if so, what mechanism is in place to check hoarding by these traders;

(c) whether Government has also stopped export of rice and other grains to ensure food security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the present policy the farmers have the option to sell their produce of wheat and other cereals to FCI/State Agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP) or in the open market, as is advantageous to them. This ensures remunerative prices to the farmers. However, a notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008" has been issued which provides that private parties who purchase wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish return to Secretary (Food), of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased, while a return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government. Similarly a notification titled "Rice (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007" has been issued which provides that any private party which purchases paddy (in terms of rice) or rice beyond 10,000 tonnes during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 shall furnish a return to the Secretary (Food), of the State from where maximum quantity has been purchased. In case the purchase of paddy (in terms of rice) or rice exceeds 25,000 tonnes (throughout the country) the return is to be filed with the Central Government. Further Department of Consumer Affairs has issued orders enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat, rice pulses, edible oils and edible oilseeds to check hoarding.

(c) and (d) Export of non-basmati rice on private account has been banned. Export of wheat on private account has already been banned by the Government till further orders. Export of rice, wheat and wheat products from the Central Pool is also banned till further orders.